

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Status and Amendment to the Claims

Claims 2-11, 14-16, 19-23 and 28 are now pending.

The Examiner is thanked for his kind finding of allowable subject matter in claims 3-11, 20-21, 23 and 28 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 12-13, 17-18, 24-27 and 29-30 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 3, 10-11, 20-21 and 28 have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 2 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 3 and 20, respectively.

Claims 4-9, 14-16, and 22-23 have been amended to correct informalities.

The amendment also contains minor changes of a clerical nature.

No "new matter" has been added by the amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-9, 11-13 and 22-23 stand objected to because of certain informalities.

The claims have been amended to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action and otherwise.

With this amendment, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection and §103 Rejection

Claims 25-26 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Merrill (U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. 2002/0036694), among which claims 25 and 30 are independent claims.

Claims 1-2, 14-16, 18-19, 22, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Li et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,463,177) in view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,032,927), among which claims 1, 18 and 27 are independent claims. Claims 12, 17, 24 and 29 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Li et al and Watanabe et al as applied to claims 1-2, and further in view of Sata et al., among which claims 12, 24 and 29 are independent claims. In addition, claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al, Watanabe et al, and Sata et al. as applied to claim 12, and further in view of Merrill.

Rejected independent claims 1, 12, 18, 24-25, 27 and 29-30 have been cancelled by this amendment, without prejudice.

Claims 3, 10, 11, 20-21 and 28, in which the Examiner has found allowable subject matter, have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these independent claims are now in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2 and 19 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 3 and 20, respectively. Claims 4-9 depend from claim 3, claim 22 depends from claim 20, and claim 23 depends from claim 21, and thus include the limitations of the respective allowable independent claims. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable at least for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 12-2252 (LSI Logic Corporation).

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: June 10, 2004



Masako Ando

Limited Recognition under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 292-5800
Fax. (408) 287-8040



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Expires: August 27, 2004

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Director of Enrollment and Discipline